



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to LWOP for Killing Woman During Robbery

A 22-year-old man was sentenced today to four years plus life in state prison without the possibility of parole for fatally stabbing a 62-year-old woman as she walked home after buying groceries in 2014, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

A jury found Kenyata Blake guilty on April 15 of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree robbery. Jurors also found true a special circumstance allegation that the murder was committed during a robbery and an allegation that the defendant used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife.

Deputy District Attorneys Brian Chang and Kevin Keeland of the Hardcore Gang Division prosecuted case BA433216.

On Dec. 22, 2014, Maria Elena Rivas was walking home after she finished buying groceries for Christmas in the Adams-Normandie area when Blake attacked her. Rivas was fatally stabbed and her handbag was stolen.

The defendant also robbed a woman on Jan. 23, 2015, on a street in the Mid-City area.

Blake's twin brother, Keishon Blake, is accused of participating in the crimes and is facing the same charges. His case is pending.

The Los Angeles Police Department investigated the case.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.